



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,793	06/27/2003	Dominic Maida	11225-00001-US	6268

23416 7590 10/20/2004

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ, LLP
P O BOX 2207
WILMINGTON, DE 19899

EXAMINER

HOOK, JAMES F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3754

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/607,793

Applicant(s)

MAIDA, DOMINIC

Examiner

James F. Hook

Art Unit

3754

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The amendment filed July 12, 2004 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132 states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: the addition of language directed toward the sheet being "imperforate" is not supported by the specification, there is no suggestion in the specification that the sheet is imperforate.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The inclusion of language directed toward the sheet being "imperforate" is considered new matter as set forth above, and the inclusion of such in claim 1 is improper, where claims 2-8 are likewise rejected due to their dependence upon claim 1 that includes new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burns in view of Pendergraft and Riley. The patent to Burns discloses the recited pipe valve insulation cover comprising a flexible planar and generally rectangular sheet 10 having long and short sides, releasable fastening structure 34,38, are provided along the length of the longer side, the flexible sheet is wrapped around insulation 70, where the type of valve it covers is considered to be merely intended use where the structure could be used to cover any type of known valve of which gate and ball valves are old and well known in the art. The patent to Burns discloses all of the recited structure with the exception of providing the releasable connecting structure along the long sides to connect together where such is made of hook and loop fasteners such as VELCRO, making the sheet imperforate, and providing elastic means on the short sides. The patent to Pendergraft discloses an insulation jacket comprising a flexible planar and generally rectangular sheet 24 which can be provided with releasable connection means 49 which has a matching strip also provided along the other long side of the rectangular sheet to engage one another where they are made of a hook and loop material to allow for fast release, and further strips 30 are also deployed along the long

side of the rectangular sheet, where members 82 are spring members which are considered elastic are provided around the short sides to help hold the sleeve to the insulation material, where the elastic means contacts the short sides and is considered to be secured thereto by means of its elasticity. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the sleeve in Burns by providing hook and loop fasteners in place of the buckle and strap fasteners along the long side of the sheet as suggested by Pendergraft as such would allow for quicker opening and closing of the connection than a buckle and strap could provide, and to provide elastic means to the short sides as suggested by Pendergraft to further aid in holding the sleeve on the insulation at the ends to better prevent against separation and possible leaks into the insulation material. The patent to Riley discloses the recited insulative jacket to be provided around a valve comprising a flexible sheet formed with insulation material 10 provided with outer layer 12 made of a fiberglass cloth which is aluminized, where it is considered that such a process would fill any holes in the cloth and make such imperforate. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the sheet in Burns by providing a coating on the sheet material thereby making such an imperforate sheet as suggested by Riley where such would prevent moisture from entering the insulative layer and make such a more effective insulator as well as further protect the layer from damage.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. With respect to the teachings of Pendergraft, it is considered that the spring element is the equivalent of an elastic

Art Unit: 3754

means when the spring element itself is provided to elastically expand and contract to hold the insulation down around the pipe, such meets the current claim language. It is noted that applicant is not claiming elastic material but an elastic means where any equivalent structure that can perform the same function is considered to meet the claim language. With respect to Pendergraft not being related art, such is not persuasive when such is dealing with insulation provided around pipes, and such is in the same field of endeavor as insulation formed around pipes and valves.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patents to Rickards, Klein, Plunkett, Sr., Zuiches, and Martin disclosing state of the art insulation covers for pipes and/or valves.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

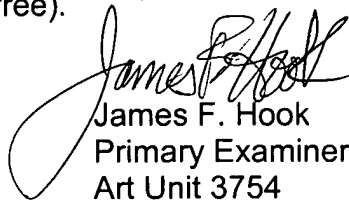
Art Unit: 3754

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James F. Hook whose telephone number is (703) 308-2913 until mid November at which point it will change to (571) 272-4903. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Wednesday, work at home Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Mar can be reached on (703) 308-2087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


James F. Hook
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3754

JFH